

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT

PROJECT FAQ

What is Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national movement that aims to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) runs a statewide SRTS program and uses Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) federal funds to construct projects selected through a competitive process open to local governments and school systems.

What does this have to do with Stratton?

Pedestrian safety near Stratton Elementary School is a concern of parents, elected officials, town and school staff, and the Transportation Advisory Committee, especially for areas lacking safe sidewalks. In January, the Town applied for a MassDOT SRTS Project Award to fund pedestrian safety improvements near Stratton Elementary School. This project was awarded just under \$900,000 to improve specific routes leading to Stratton.

Where will the improvements be made, and what kind of changes will we see?

Two streets will be improved:

- Hemlock St between Brattle St and Dickson Ave
- Dickson Ave between Hemlock St and Pheasant Ave

See the project area map on the reverse side of this flyer for details. Changes will include installing ADA-compliant curb ramps, repairing deficient sidewalks, installing new sidewalks, narrowing roadway inter-sections to slow vehicles and reduce pedestrian crossing distances, improving crosswalks, and adding new signs to the area.

Why were these locations chosen, and what other improvements will be made elsewhere in the future?

The steep roadway on Hemlock makes crossings hazardous for pedestrians, and the lack of sidewalks on stretches of Hemlock and Dickson Ave compromise the safety of students. The town recognizes the need for improvements on other streets, and intends to seek out town and other grant funding for this purpose. DPW plans to use an annual allocation of sidewalk repair funds to repair sidewalks on Mountain Ave and Pheasant Ave over the next two years.

Additionally, DPCD will be working on a Sustainability Mobility Plan in the coming year, part of which will be working with residents to identify and prioritize SRTS improvements across town.

How much will the project cost?

MassDOT will be paying for design and construction of the project, at an estimated cost of \$887,622. The Town is responsible for right-of-way costs associated with the project, which will be determined during the survey and design phases.

What is the project timeline?

Right now, the Town is working with AECOM—MassDOT's consultant on SRTS projects—to prepare for project kickoff. Town staff will meet with AECOM and MassDOT in June or July to refine the concept for this project and develop a plan to be submitted to MassDOT's Project Review Committee by August 1. After this concept is approved, MassDOT will assign a consultant to fully design out the project over the next couple of years. Funding will be available for the project starting in 2022.

Public info session, 6/13/2019

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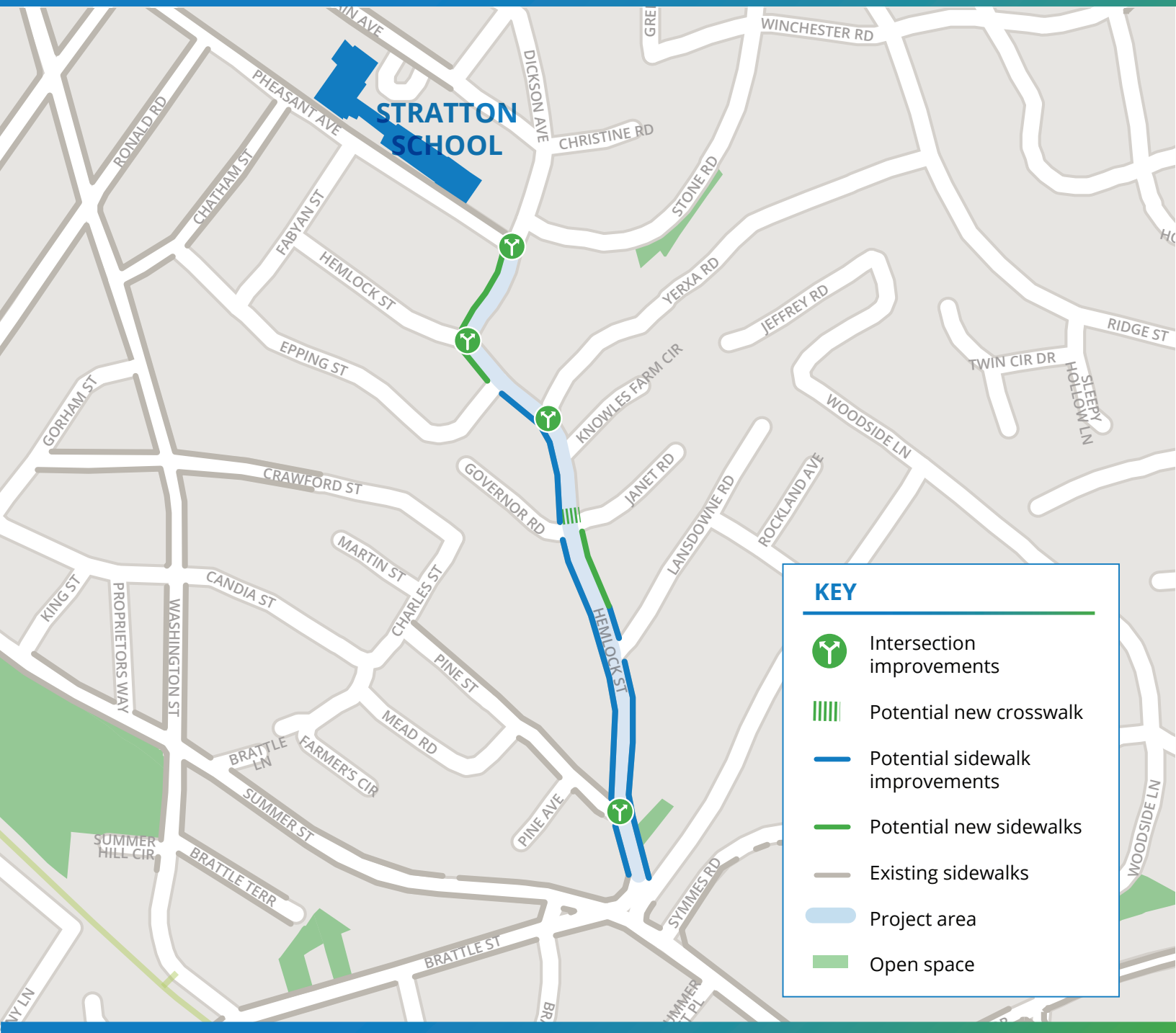
Sign up for updates about this project on the sign-up sheet or by contacting:

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STRATTON ELEMENTARY AREA

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